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The STATE HORNET

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NOT EVEN A QUARTER BACK

Sacramento State's Athletics department recovers from a $600,000 deficit as programs across the county face a financial reckoning

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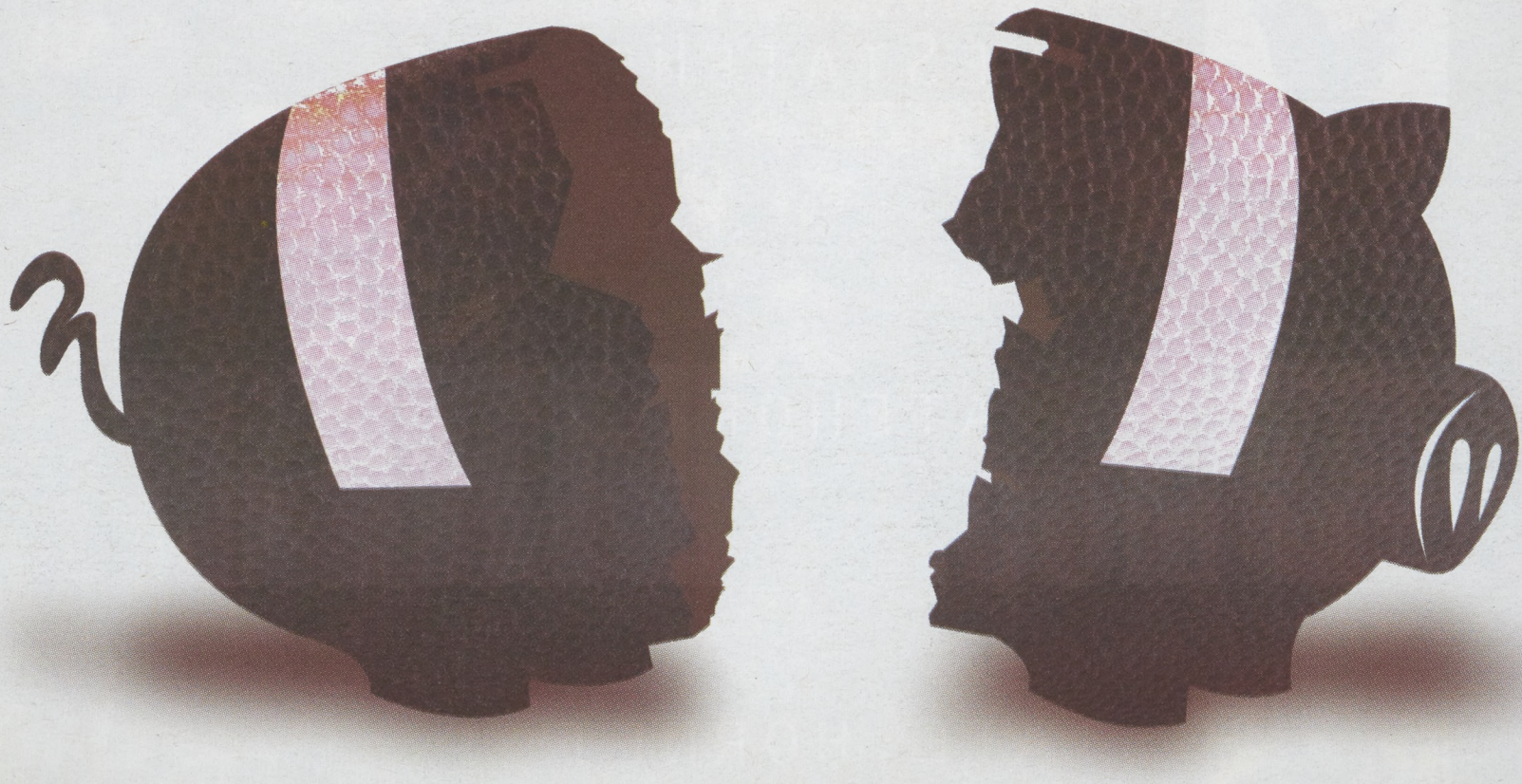

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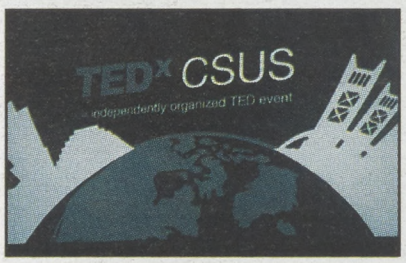
FEATURED SOCIAL MEDIA

News of incoming students being required to take one more upper-division B5 class set our comment section into a frenzy. Morgen Wiebe said if more professors aren't hired, "it's just going to lead to more impacted classes and delayed graduation rates." Search for The State Hornet on Facebook for more campus news.

Sports editor Angel Guerrero live-tweeted from the Golden 1 Center on Nov. 21 for the Causeway Classic men's basketball game between Sacramento State and UC Davis. The Hornets lost to the Aggies 64-47. Follow @AngelGuerrero and @TheStateHornet for more sports and other stories.



Local and international leaders and entrepreneurs gathered for TEDxCSUS 2017 — the first-ever independently organized TED conference at Sacramento State — in the University Union Ballroom Nov. 17 to listen and share personal experiences in their respective fields under the theme of "Boomerang." Watch snippets of the speeches and follow us @StateHornet for more similar campus events.

NEWS IN BRIEF

STILL FRESH: The movie "Lady Bird," directed by Sacramento native Greta Gerwig, has broken the most consecutive "fresh" reviews record on the Fandango-owned movie review website, Rotten-Tomatoes. The record, previously held by Toy Story 2 in 1999, measures how many critics rate the movie highly without a negative review, consecutively. As of press time, "Lady Bird" has 170 "fresh" reviews and no "rotten" reviews.

To stay up to date with news, go to statehornet.com/news

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In Volume 72, Issue 12 of The State Hornet, there are no corrections listed.

Cover by Tyler McElmurry

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JOSEPH DANIELS - The State Hornet

Tamkinat Ahmad is a Sacramento State student who wears a hijab. Ahmad said her decision to wear a veil was influenced by her volunteer service for her mosque.

'In the end, it's my choice'

SAC STATE STUDENTS WHO WEAR A HIJAB SHARE THEIR REASONS FOR WEARING THE GARMENT AND THEIR EXPERIENCES

Joseph Daniels
@joseph64daniels

After hearing the comments that President Donald Trump made during the 2016 presidential election, a Sacramento State student said she questioned whether or not she should continue to wear a hijab.

"I'm going to college, and I now have a lot of, you know, diverse social circles, but still, I was terrified for myself," Shaq Usman, a junior criminal justice major, said. "I was like, 'I don't think I'm ready to face whatever is going to hit me, I'm so scared.' "

Four Sac State students who wear a hijab explained their personal reasons for wearing the garment and how they have experienced discrimination in their lives.

A hijab is a type of veil and head covering that is worn by

some Muslim women. Different types include the niqab, the burqa and the chador. The custom of veiling predates Islam, but it is strongly associated with the religion in Western countries.

Maram Abed, a junior communications sciences and disorders major, has been asked by people if she has hair underneath her hijab and even if she wears it while she takes a showers.

"I make jokes about it, 'Yeah, I use hijab and shoulders,' " Abed said. "They don't always get it because they don't know it's called a hijab."

Tamkinat Ahmad, a junior pre-biological sciences major, said that she also began to worry about wearing a hijab in public before her father sat down with her to tell her that he supported her either way.

Ahmad said she started to carry pepper spray around with her after she heard reports of Muslim women being attacked in the United States.

Abed once took a class at Sac State where a professor claimed that the Quran stated that Muslims are not allowed to be happy or smile. She said she raised her hand and told her professor that the correct context is that people should not be arrogant.

"I raised my hand, and I'm like, 'What do you mean? Look around the classroom, we are all different,' " Abed said. "We are all diverse in our own way. Even if you take me and another Muslim, there is still diversity between us because each person is their own person."

Abed said she received a B for the class, despite being on track to receive an A. After confronting the professor about her grade, it was changed to an A-.

Abed said that it has become common for her family to be randomly selected to be searched at airports and that her father now makes jokes about the experience.

"He's like, 'I won this, I never won anything in my life,' "Abed said. "The lady was looking (at) him like, 'OK, what?' "

Ahmad spoke of a specific incident when transportation security attempted to separate her parents from the rest of the family after they were randomly selected.

JOSEPH DANIELS - The State Hornet

Aisa Barakat is a Sacramento State student who wears a hijab. Barakat's grandmother's decision to veil inspired her to wear her hijab.

> **"We are all diverse in our own way. Even if you take me and another Muslim, there is still diversity between us because each person is their own person."**
>
> **- Maram Abed**
> *Communication studies*

"I was scared," Ahmad said. "When I saw them try to separate my parents, I was like, 'Hold up, let me get all of my siblings together.' "

Slavik Chiley, a student who preaches on campus, often holds signs that read, "Repent or perish" while telling large crowds of people that homosexuality is wrong, as previously reported. Abed said Chiley called out to her as she walked by one of his demonstrations.

"He yelled at me, like, 'You're going to go to hell,' " Abed said. "And then he's like, 'May God guide you,' or whatever he said. I was so fed up though because I had a test, I was like, 'Amen,' and I just kept walking."

Both of Ahmad's and Usman's families originated from Pakistan. However, Ahmad's parents lived in the city, while Usman's family lived in a rural area. Ahmad wears her hijab by choice, while Usman's family expects her to wear the veiling.

Ahmad said that her mother did not expect her daughters to wear a veil because she wasn't expected to growing up.

"I also volunteered at a mosque more often, and that kind of just influenced my decision to tell my parents that I want to wear the hijab," Ahmad said.

Usman's story is different. She said she began to wear a hijab because she grew up in a family in which it was essential for her to dress modestly.

Usman said she stopped wearing her hijab during the first year of middle school because it made her feel isolated from her peers, but she decided to wear it again in eighth grade.

This experience repeated itself when she went to high school. It was when she was in the 10th grade that she said she had an epiphany.

"I was like, 'Why am I trying to please other people?,' " Usman said. "What's the point? In the end, it's my choice. If I feel I should wear it, I should wear it."

Asia Barakat, a sophomore computer engineering major, said she began to wear a hijab because she was inspired by her grandmother who she said was a role model in her life.

Barakat said the hijab also serves as a reminder that she should be mindful of how she behaves.

"You should double think," Barakat said. "Like, rethink your actions, and make sure you are doing what it is (not only) right for you, but for your community and the people around you."

Barakat said the people who question her the most about why she wears a hijab are members of her own family, as she is one of the few people in her family to do so. She said sometimes her mom will tease her about it as well.

"I would forget I am wearing it around the house, and my mom would be like, 'Why are you even… What are you doing?,' " Barakat said.

Abed, Barakat, Usman and Ahmad all said that the choice to wear or not wear a hijab does not make a woman a good or bad Muslim.

"Someone can be in miniskirts and short shorts, tank tops," Abed said. "Maybe they are really close to God."

Debate team pushes for recognition

Coach hopes to compete on highest level in national tournament next spring

Alex Daniels
*@DanielsAlex_*

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, the Sacramento State Speech and Debate Team gathers to sharpen its argumentation skills, which have been incredibly effective against multiple first-place debaters, semifinalists and quarterfinalists so far this season, according to the team's website.

This success is surprising for a team that has a disadvantage when it comes to their budget, especially when compared with other universities' debate teams.

Speech and debate teams from universities throughout the nation search and battle for the top debaters by enticing potential members with scholarships. For the Sac State debate team, however, this is not the case.

"A lot of universities have scholarships for their debate teams, and they have very large budgets, which means they go out just like an athletic director, and they recruit from high schools," Kristen Tudor, the director of Sac State's speech and debate team, said. "They offer scholarships, and they are getting the debaters with many years of experience. We don't have scholarships, and we have a very modest budget."

Despite this, Tudor said they are able to get people on the team by encouraging students who debated in high school and are attending Sac State to join. Tudor said the rest of the team is made up of walk-ons, which means they join the team as a class and start off at the novice level.

Students join the debate team by taking COMS 111, which is an upper-division course that counts toward elective units for communication studies majors, as well as upper-division General Education units for other majors, according to Tudor. The course description is described as "directed research in the current intercollegiate debate topic; intercollegiate debate topics, identification of issues, compilation evidence and case building", as stated on the team's website.

Ryan Bittle, a senior political science major, jokingly said this vague course description is sometimes a way for the team to recruit future debaters.

"A lot of people join the class on accident," Bittle said. "They're COMS majors trying to find a class and just click on that class because it is open. Then, they realized they joined the speech and debate team. Sometimes (when they find that out), they leave and drop. Other times, they stay, but that's part of our recruiting tool – by tricking them."

Despite this, Bittle said when he first joined the team, it was composed of about 12 students. He said that the start of this semester, however, brought a full class list, something he has never seen before.

According to Tudor, debates are separated by three different levels. Novice, for example, is for beginners who have no prior debating experience. This allows students to improve their skills against equal competition – something that debate coach Jared Anderson says brings an advantage to his team especially.

"Most of our walk-ons are junior(s) and seniors," Anderson said. "A lot of the time, when (somebody) joins the novice division, (they) are against freshmen. It makes a difference because (they) have had those couple of years of (college) education."

Tudor said the other two divisions are junior varsity and open. Junior varsity is for the debaters who are not quite good enough to be in open, while open division is for the top competitors, similar to varsity level in sports programs.

MATTHEW NOBERT - The State Hornet

Senior Kelly Buckland delivers her argument for the negative team about how college tuition should not be free at CSUs during the Public Debate Associations fall public debate on Nov.16 at Sacramento State. The negative won the debate.

This season, Sac State debaters have been successful at each level, including junior communication studies major Kevin Ozomaro. So far, Ozomaro has gotten to at least the semifinals in four out of the five events he has competed in so far, including winning the open division at the Paul Winters Invitational at the University of Pacific, according to Anderson.

"I feel that I have been putting a lot of effort in getting better," Ozomaro said. "Most of the credit should be going to Jared because he retaught me how to debate better."

Kelly Buckband, a senior communication studies major, said that being on the team has helped her beyond just becoming a better debater.

"It pushes me to keep up with political decisions and politics in general," Buckband said. "It pushes me to advance my learning in every aspect. It makes me more of a critical thinker and a lot more open-minded."

According to the team's website, there is one more event left in the fall 2017 season. The Steinbeck Invitational tournament will be held in Salinas during December and will be the last debate event before the team returns to action in the spring.

According to Tudor, the National Tournament is the biggest tournament of the year, which occurs during the spring. This year, it is being held in Wisconsin, and due to its "modest" budget, the team can only afford to bring five debaters.

Despite this, Anderson said he hopes for his team to be competitive at a national level.

"My goal for the team is for us to be nationally competitive," Anderson said. "I want us to be a team that schools have to think about and prepare for going to a tournament.. Ideally, we would like to be competing for national championships."

Anderson said that while he hopes to compete nationally, he also wants his team to help students improve their academic skills.

"They get a lot faster at research, able to read through articles and consume information more critically," Anderson said. "We got people from all sorts of spectrum of political opinions on our team. And, as long as they can support their claims with research, evidence and logic, (and) whether I disagree or not, it is good for them. That is what debate is all about."

Helping those who need it most

Student Affairs case manager assists distressed students

THOMAS FREY - The State Hornet

Danielle Muñoz, Sacramento State's Student Affairs case manager, has helped 118 students who were facing financial or emotional distress this semester.

Thomas Frey
@ThomasFreyRP

Without notice, the Behavioral Intervention Team at Sacramento State must be ready to help students who may be feeling suicidal, according to team member and Sacramento State Police Chief Mark Iwasa.

Within minutes of finding out a student could be in danger of hurting themselves or others, the team's goal is to have the student evaluated to see if further action is needed. That is normally where the team's job is complete, but one case manager on the team, Danielle Muñoz, isn't satisfied with stopping there.

Muñoz, a Student Affairs case manager, feels that there is more work to be done. According to Iwasa, Muñoz will either go to the hospital or call the student that night and in the following days to make sure that they are able to transition back into school life.

That is just one of the many jobs that Muñoz does. In less than two years at Sac State, she has helped more than 100 students with financial difficulties each semester. Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy even gave Muñoz and Student Affairs a congressional recognition certificate during the 2017 Hunger & Homelessness Community Awards on Nov. 15 for the team's work.

Muñoz faced her own adversities while in college. As a child, she grew up in a military family who used every penny wisely. She said that she didn't have the flashiest clothes or a lot of spending money, but she had enough.

When it came time to pick a college, Muñoz said her parents told her that her choices may be limited due to financial constraints. She was accepted to UC Davis but began to realize her options were limited until she spoke with a counselor.

Muñoz said that her counselor told her to fill out as many scholarship applications as possible, which ended up being about 50. She said the days of waiting to hear back were long and scary, and she considered not going to college at all before she was awarded 10 scholarships, which paid for almost everything she needed. However, it wasn't enough.

Muñoz attended UC Davis and played on the club water polo team. Shortly into her time as an Aggie, she began working at the pool as a lifeguard to make some extra money for food and rent.

"I totally hustled in college," Muñoz said. "I had all of those little jobs, I hustled for those scholarships. I just had to really work hard."

After her time at Davis, Muñoz attended graduate school for three years at Sac State. She said that she took night classes so she could work during the day. After she finished graduate school, she immediately became a case manager and therapist.

Muñoz said that she worked with adults with developmental disabilities to find jobs and housing.

"I would set up their schedule in the community," Muñoz said. "A lot of them have talents. They should just be called, 'differently-abled.' "

> "I go home every day saying, 'God, if only I could clone myself five times over to help more students.' "
>
> **- Danielle Muñoz**
> *Case manager, Student Affairs*

In addition, she also worked as a marriage and family therapist and volunteered three nights a week at the Gender Health Center in Sacramento.

When Muñoz arrived at Sac State, there weren't many options for students who were in financial distress. Muñoz's job as a case manager doesn't stop at checking on students who are undergoing emotional distress.

Mostly through referrals from faculty, students who are homeless or who could be facing the threat of homelessness can seek out Muñoz for help to find housing, which is usually temporary, lasting for about a semester.

When Muñoz started in spring of 2016, she continued volunteering and working as a therapist. Her workload at Sac State grew as more students requested her help. In order to give those students her full attention, Muñoz said she began to cut back on her work outside of school and eventually phased it out completely.

"I needed to have all my focus on my students because I didn't expect that we would have such a high volume of people coming in such a short amount of time," Muñoz said. "I'm now fully focused on Sac State efforts."

Muñoz said that she hopes that Sac State will add another member to the case management team in order to assist her with helping students in need.

"I go home every day saying, 'God, if only I could clone myself five times over to help more students,' " Muñoz said. "If I could get to students sooner, that is just sooner that students could get back to studying."

Since Muñoz started working at Sac State, she has worked to accommodate more than 100 students per semester and said she has already helped 118 this semester.

"I can't overstate how important she is," Iwasa said. "She makes sure the students are safe, and sometimes the person needs other resources. She has access to all of that. There are dozens of students that she is calling and following up on constantly."

"Helping people always made sense to me," Muñoz said. "I am really proud of students, and I'm proud of faculty and staff in becoming involved in these efforts."

SMOKING BAN NOT ENFORCED

'BREATHE EASY' CAMPAIGN ROLLED OUT DESPITE SAC STATE'S LACK OF ENFORCEMENT OF CSU SMOKING BAN

Joseph Daniels
@joseph64daniels

Sacramento State placed banners near school entrances advertising its "Breathe Easy" anti-smoking campaign, which implies a smoke-free campus, but a smoking ban will not be enforced any time soon, according to Sac State Police Chief Mark Iwasa.

The State Hornet previously reported that Sac State will implement a smoking ban early in the spring 2018 semester, but Iwasa said that the smoke-free campus policy will not be enforced until "next fall, at the earliest."

California State University Chancellor Timothy White issued an executive order that bans the use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vapor devices, for all of CSU campuses by Sept. 1.

The interim director of News and Communications at Sac State, Brian Blomster, said that there is an understanding that there will be a grace period allowed for CSU campuses before they enforce the new smoking policy.

According to Blomster, the "Breathe Easy" campaign is how Sac State has chosen to comply with the executive order. He also said that the banners are a part of the campaign and are used to educate the campus community about the change in policy before it is enforced.

"We are not looking to make a problem for anyone, but eventually, we are giving people time to adjust to the change," Blomster said. "We are going to expect people to respect the ban."

President Robert Nelsen said in a Sac State press release that he wants students to take advantage of the extra time to quit tobacco products.

The banner includes a reference to a page on the Sacramento State website offering information and resources that are intended to help students who want to quit using tobacco products.

The website says the Student Health and Counseling Services Pharmacy provides free quit kits for students who want to kick the habit.

The kit includes literature with tips on how quit smoking, as well as sunflower seeds, mints, gum and honey sticks, which can help ease the process.

Academic Affairs and Student Affairs collaborated on the creation of the "Breathe Easy" banners, and Facilities distributed them at school entrances.

The University has yet to release information on how the policy will be enforced next year or what penalties students will face if they don't comply.

"Right now, are we a smoke-free campus?" Blomster said. "I mean, if people are still smoking on it, I would say no. We got the regulation that you know is in place, but again, we are letting people get used to it."

Luis Kischmischian of the Division of Student Affairs said that the fact Sac State created a policy banning tobacco products is enough to label the school a smoke-free campus.

"Because it is not enforced does not mean that it's (not) a smoke-free campus," Kischmischian said.

Kischmischian said there currently is no indication of what CSU enforcement of the ban will look like.

JOSEPH DANIELS - The State Hornet

Sacramento State student Crystal Forame smokes a cigarette on campus. Sac State still has no plan on how to enforce its tobacco-free policy.

SAC STATE SAYS

Sacramento State is publicizing a new tobacco ban based off a CSU-wide mandate. However, there are currently no plans being made public for how the ban will be enforced. We asked Sac State students if they think calling a campus smoke free can make it so, or if enforcement will be necessary. Tell us what you think by using **#SacStateSays** *on any social media platform.*

"Does Sac State need to enforce its **smoking ban** to be considered smoke-free?"

Garrett Belme
@TheStateHornet

#SacStateSays

"I think if you have a smoking area away from campus, like across the road or something like that ... then I don't think it's that much of a problem. But on campus in major traffic areas, I think there shouldn't be smoking."

- Connor Greene
Communication studies

"I don't think that we necessarily will get smoke-free even with a smoking ban. It's more so about enforcement. You can pass a law or write something down, but people have to be able to kind of see it as a problem first."

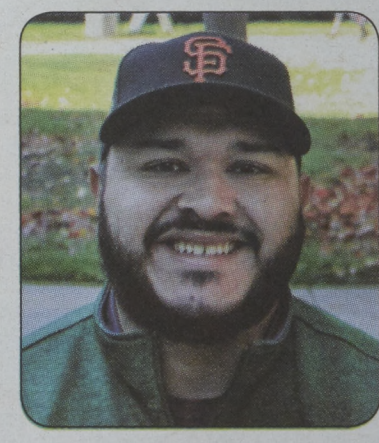
- Andrew Siegand
History

"Yes, (there should be more enforcement) because it's gross and not good for your health."

- Gina Schneider
Criminal justice

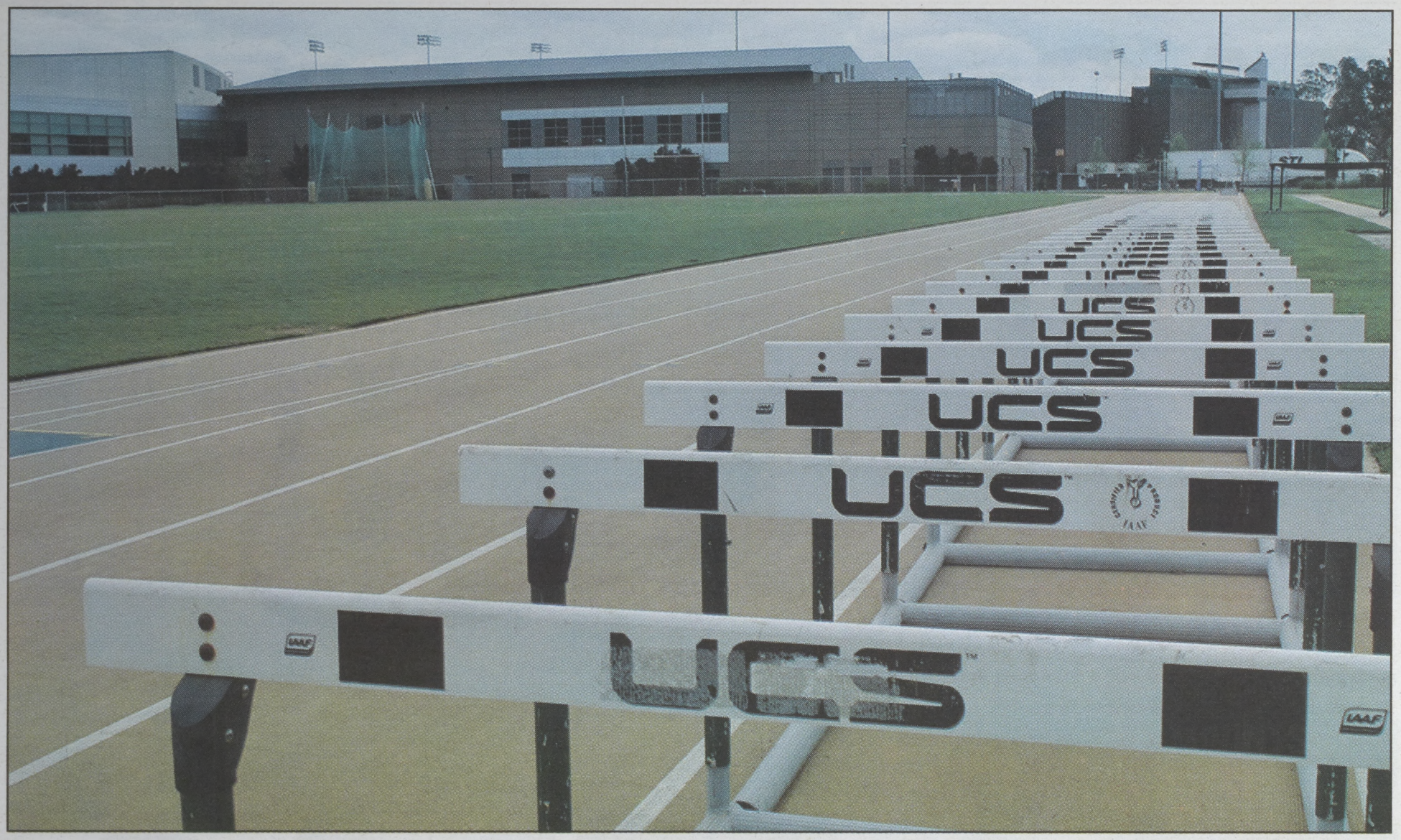
"I think there should be (more enforcement) because it ends up taking over campus."

- Victoria Alekseev
Communication studies



"I do think there needs to be a little bit more reinforcement when people are violating the smoking areas and are not cooperating within the sections of our designated smoking areas."

- Esteban Castellanos
Communication studies



SAMI SOTO - The State Hornet

Due to changes in how the NCAA distributes cash, the Sacramento State Athletics department has recovered from a $606,694 deficit from the previous year, according to an NCAA report from the 2016-17 year.

Athletic department recovers from deficit

SAC STATE ATHLETICS PROGRAM CLOSES ITS $606,694 GAP FROM 2015-16 YEAR AFTER NCAA CHANGE IN MONEY DISTRIBUTION

Sami Soto
@itssamisoto
Rin Carbin
@ss_horo

The Sacramento State Athletics department has recovered from a deficit of over $600,000 from the previous year, according to an NCAA report from the 2016-17 year.

Due to changes in how the NCAA distributes money, the Athletics department received $2.4 million, according to the 2016-17 NCAA report — more than twice what it received last year, bringing it out of the deficit.

Currently, the athletics program stands at a $619,335 surplus.

Among the NCAA changes are adjustments in how the money is calculated and when it is distributed, said Jeff Pritsker, the Sac State associate athletic director of business. The cash from the NCAA is given out at the beginning of the fiscal period instead of the end, which caused the department to receive two payments this year instead of one. Pritsker also said that the program will receive about $1.2 million yearly in NCAA distributions for the foreseeable future.

In addition to NCAA distributions, the department is also heavily funded by student tuition and the University, which helps cover the operating costs of the program. For the 2016-17 period, the University provided $8.2 million to the department — two-thirds of which goes toward the salaries of its head and assistant coaches, Pritsker said.

The report shows that student tuition paid $8.1 million. This money is used to help with the sports programs' operating expenses, which total $19.5 million.

Operating funds — whether from Sac State, NCAA distributions or from donations — totalled $21.9 million.

The remainder of the operating costs are left for the Athletics department to cover with ticket revenues from games, sponsorships, guarantees from away-game participation and donations, among other sources.

However, the rising costs of scholarships and travel still pose a threat to the financial future of the department, said Sac State Athletic Director Mark Orr.

"Salaries, tuition, travel expenses; those things continue to rise," Orr said. "Expenses certainly aren't going down in higher education and on a national scale."

The cause of the prior year's deficit, which totaled $606,694, according to the 2015-16 NCAA report, was due in part to scholarships for student-athletes, Pritsker said.

In both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 NCAA report, the program reported nearly $4.7 million spent on scholarships and student aid — making it the highest expenditure for the department.

While the number of scholarships awarded to student-athletes has not significantly changed, scholarship rates have increased due to the rising cost of tuition, housing and meal plans, Orr said.

For the 2017-18 year, Pritsker said he predicts that $5 million will be spent on scholarships and student aid, adding that it would be "the most they've spent in a long time."

This prediction comes at a time when a number of collegiate athletic departments are making cuts to stay afloat. The Eureka Times-Standard recently reported speculation among Humboldt State University coaches and players that its football program may be cut or placed in moratorium at the end of the 2017 season in November due to a projected $900,000 or higher deficit for the year.

Only five campuses in the California State University system, including Sac State, have teams that play in NCAA Division I football. Humboldt State is currently the only CSU that plays in Division II. HSU is in danger of losing its football program amidst a $508,600 deficit, according to the University's 2016 Intercollegiate Athletics Assessment, and has a projected $900,000 or higher deficit for 2017-18.

However, Orr said that he does not believe Sac State will face the same difficulties as HSU due to the popularity of the football program, especially in light of its latest season.

The Hornets — which finished with a program-best, 6-2 record in the Big Sky Conference this year — are coming off a 7-4 overall standing and a Causeway Classic win over rival UC Davis on Nov. 18.

"I think football's success has brought a lot of those former alums and people interested back to the program," Orr said. "The hope would be that we can continue to have success in our football program that we've had this past season that will turn into revenue streams — that, previously, we haven't had the opportunity to explore."

Orr and Pritsker both agree that football brings the largest crowds — and the most revenue — of any team on campus and also draws the most attention from alumni and community members who are potential donors.

The football team made up half of the earned ticket revenue for the Athletics department for the 2015-16 year, reeling in $119,685, according to the 2015-16 NCAA report. The amount was less in the 2016-17 NCAA report, with $78,923, but still the highest earner.

Higher yet is the amount of donations the athletics program receives, with a little over $1 million reported by both NCAA reports — football being the largest team-specific earner.

However, attracting money from alumni and community donors to help cover the operating funds is difficult because of the competition for donations across California, Orr said.

To help combat this, Orr — who is in his first year as athletic director — said he has plans to bring more revenue streams to the Athletics department. He is looking to target contributions from donors and alumni, which he refers to as the "lifeblood of athletics."

"We've got to give them a good reason why they should donate to Sacramento State and certainly Sacramento State Athletics," Orr said.

Encouraging an exciting and attractive atmosphere at games is one method that Pritsker and Orr want to use to encourage higher attendance. Large crowds were drawn to the Causeway Classic football game at Hornet Stadium this month, along with the volleyball team's Big Sky Championship match at Colberg Court.

"Even though we don't get revenue from students coming (to games), it's really important for us to have students at our events because they draw the atmosphere, and they get everybody more excited," Pritsker said.

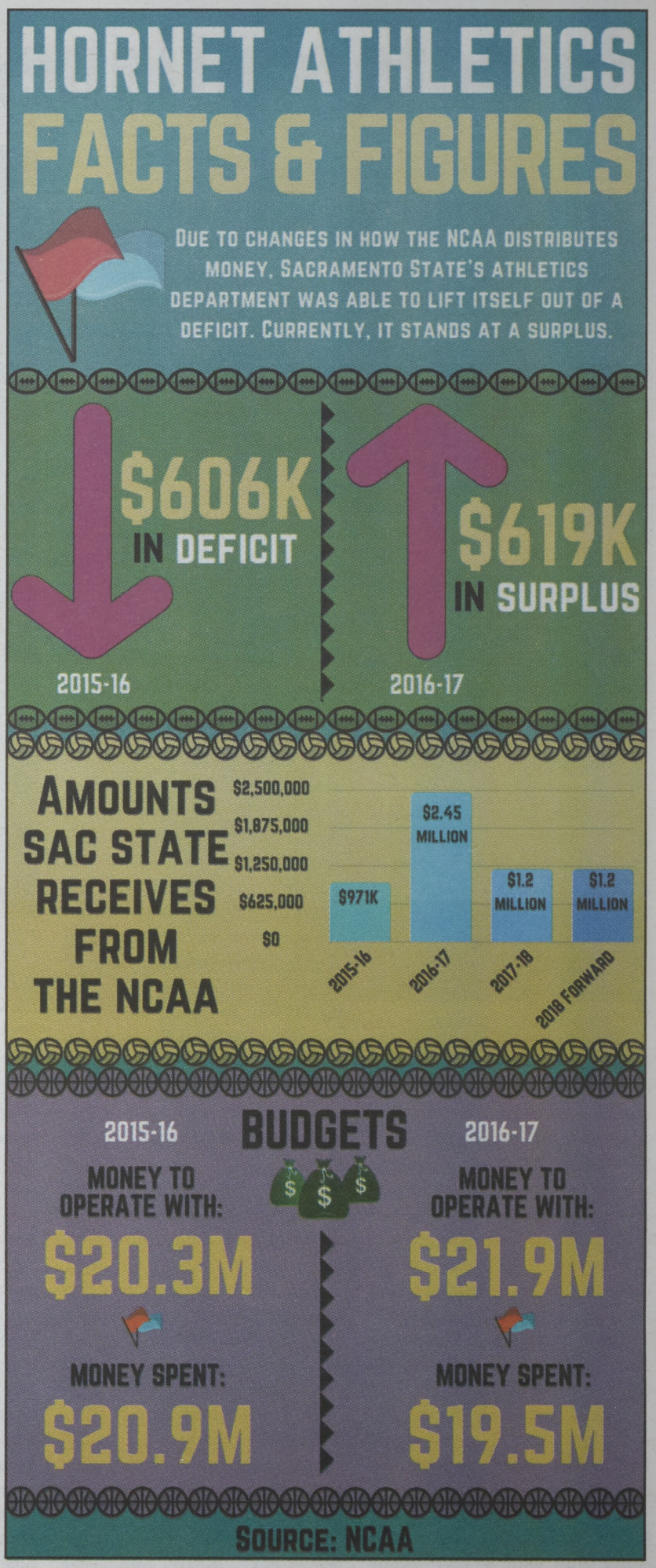
Orr added that Sac State needs to continue to schedule quality opponents so fans will be more encouraged to visit and pay for play.

"If you had a good experience coming to games as a student, you're more likely to come as an alum or continue to follow Sac State athletics or football or basketball or just come back for the homecoming (game)," Orr said.

As other departments at HSU and UC Berkeley struggle, Orr said he hopes to keep up with the cost of running a competitive Division I athletic program that features 21 teams.

"So, in order for us to do that, we really got to put a lot of focus on things we can do to drive more support, (and) that's the goal," Orr said. "It's not to cut programs or undercut students for programs, and it's certainly not to overspend."

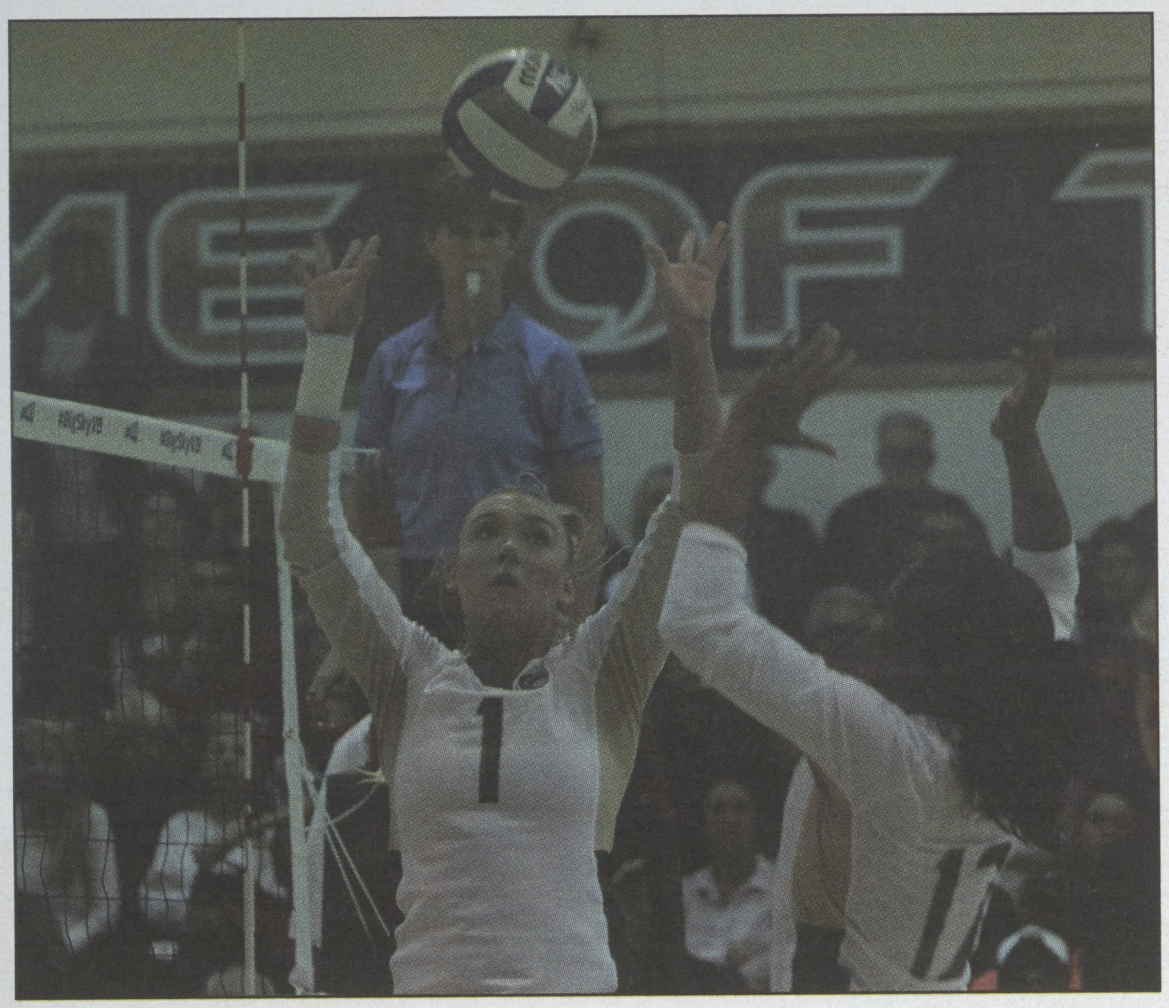
Additional reporting by Matthew Nobert



VU CHAU - The State Hornet

Hornets continue postseason in the NIVC

Kurtz and Volta named Big Sky MVP, Coach of the year



THOMAS FREY - The State Hornet

Sacramento State senior Kennedy Kurtz sets the ball up for junior middle blocker Brie Gathright against North Dakota in the Big Sky Tournament Championship Nov. 18 at Colberg Court. The Hornets will continue their postseason in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship after failing to reach the NCAA Tournament.

Thomas Frey
@ThomasFreyRP

Instead of a trip to the NCAA Tournament, the Sacramento State volleyball team will continue its postseason, as of press time, in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship.

The Hornets, who won the most games (15) in the Big Sky Conference since 2007, looked well on their way to a NCAA Tournament berth after taking a 2-1 set lead over North Dakota in the Big Sky Championship game on Nov. 18. But Sac State lost two straight sets and the match against the No. 2 seeded Fighting Hawks.

Senior setter Kennedy Kurtz floated a perfectly-placed ball over her back across the floor to junior middle blocker Lana Brown, who powered it into the ground to win the third set 25-18 in a game that was never close. The Hornets celebrated, and fans at the sold-out Colberg Court were in a frenzy.

However, it all came crashing down for Sac State. North Dakota ran away with the fourth set 25-15 before winning the final frame 15-10 to end the match with the conference title in hand.

"They put their heart and souls into it," Sac State coach Ruben Volta said. "It's incredibly difficult."

The Hornets finished with the Big Sky regular-season title after going 26-9 with a 15-1 league record. They also took home the conference's top individual awards, as Kurtz earned most valuable player and Volta was named coach of the year.

"He's been awesome," Kurtz said. "He worked us through a really hard freshman season, and we had the biggest turnaround in the country my sophomore year."

Sac State went 3-13 in the conference during Kurtz's freshman year in 2014 and then rebounded with a combined 40-8 record in the Big Sky during her final three seasons.

Kurtz currently leads the nation with 1,593 assists on the season and could become Sac State's all-time single-season leader if the team makes a deep run in the NIVC. To do so, she'll have to catch up to Suzie Severyn who recorded 1,786 assists for a team that went 35-4 in 1995.

"Kennedy, she's our quarterback," senior outside hitter Shannon Boyle said. "If she's not setting the ball for us, we aren't getting kills. She's been awesome this season and the past three seasons before this."

Kurtz set career highs in every statistical category with 120 kills, 369 digs, 89 blocks and 52 service aces on her way to being named most valuable player this year.

Boyle and junior outside hitter Mikaela Nocetti were two of the beneficiaries from Kurtz's sets, and they were each named to the Big Sky first team.

"I have to give credit to my teammates," Kurtz said after earning the Big Sky MVP award. "My hitters get kills out of really crappy sets sometimes. It's an honor, I think I'm the sixth Hornet to get this award and to be put in the same conversation as the girls (who have won before), that's a really big honor for me."

Boyle and Nocetti each set a career high in kills, and they each delivered in big games that helped Sac State win the regular season conference crown. In the first meeting against North Dakota on Oct. 5, Nocetti had 21 kills and 18 digs, while Boyle recorded a career-high 35 digs.

The duo also established double figures in kills and digs as the Hornets came back from a 2-0 hole to defeat Portland State in five sets on Nov. 4.

"This was kind of the definition to our season," Boyle said after clinching the Big Sky regular-season title on senior day. "Whether we are down 10 points, or we are down two sets, we come back, and we fight."

Brown, meanwhile, had 13 kills and a career-high 11 blocks during the win over Portland State and was later named to the Big Sky second team. She was a force in the middle all season after garnering 331 kills and is eighth in the nation with 164 blocks.

After the postseason, Sac State will graduate Kurtz, Boyle and Brigitte Murdock, who is 13th in the nation with 629 digs. But the Hornets will be left with Nocetti, Brown and middle blocker Brie Gathright to help lead a team that will include current sophomore outside hitter Sarah Davis, who had 16 kills in the Big Sky Tournament semifinals.

Current freshmen Macey Hayden and Cianna Andrews have also shined when called upon in minimal roles this season. In the Big Sky Tournament finals, Andrews had three kills while only playing less than one complete set.

For a complete recap of Sac State's first-round match against UC Irvine in the NIVC Tournament on Tuesday, visit statehornet.com.

Alumnus makes impact in community

Former Sac State basketball player Haron Hargrave coaches, creates non-profit charity

Shaun Holkko
@HOLKKO23

Former Sacramento State basketball player Haron Hargrave's world crumbled when his mother passed away right before he received his scholarship to play for the Hornets.

Hargrave, also know as "H2O," grew up in the South Jamaica neighborhood of Queens, New York, where his mother obtained two master's degrees and was a teacher for over 25 years. While at Chaffey College in December 2004, Hargrave received word over the phone from his eldest sister, Eishelle, that his mother had died from diabetes, leaving behind five children.

"That was very challenging, my mom was someone I really loved and cared for," Hargrave said. "I was a momma's boy, so it was a heavy hit for me. I just took that energy (to put) my best foot forward.

"Once you lose the biggest thing in your life, you live with no fear. Basketball was something that kept me out of trouble."

Hargrave, who recently created a non-profit charity to spread peace through communities by way of sports, accepted his scholarship offer from Sac State with a heavy heart and played two seasons in Sacramento from 2005-2007 before graduating with a degree in communication studies.

"My time in Sacramento was wonderful," Hargrave said. "My two years there were golden. We changed the culture, winning the most games in (the program's) Division I history my junior year at Sac State."

In Hargrave's senior season, he led the team in scoring with 13.8 points per game. Over his two-year college career, he also averaged 11 points and 2.2 rebounds per contest.

Hargrave made eight 3-pointers against the University of Denver to tie for the then-second most in the program's Division I era, which began in 1991, to place himself in the record books in 2006.

"They gave me an opportunity to play Division I basketball, and I took every moment of it," Hargrave said. "Coming from New York to go to Sacramento is a huge leap, but I took on the culture."

Following his time in Sacramento, Hargrave went on to play professional basketball overseas from 2008-2014. He played in Romania, Hungary, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

After playing overseas, Hargrave received the nickname "H2O" while playing in a tournament in Bronx, New York. He made 12 3-pointers and scored 57 points to earn him the nickname from announcer "G-Stacks" because his jump shot was said to be pure like water. The nickname caught on, and he made it his own.

"I kept it and made it into my business," Hargrave said. "I created 'H2O Basketball' where I train and coach kids. I branded my nickname to my company."

Hargrave also started an Amateur Athletic Union team bearing his nickname, "H2O," with a group of fourth graders. Along with coaching basketball, Hargrave is a substitute teacher in New York City where he has followed his mother's footsteps into education and teaches K-12.

Photo courtesy of Chevon McIntyre

Former Sacramento State basketball player Haron Hargrave, who coaches and teaches children in New York City, created a non-profit charity named "Ballin' 4 Peace" that raised money for Puerto Rico's hurricane relief effort and other causes on Nov. 7.

"It stuck with me to help others and help kids," Hargrave said. "It helps you (to) be well-rounded and stay young. Working with kids, you keep up with the lingo."

Following the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, Hargrave also created "Ballin' 4 Peace," which is a non-profit charity event.

"I felt like there was a social change that needed to happen, not just in the community, but all over," Hargrave said. "People were having peace marches, but I wanted to do something in a positive light where people could come and have a day of peace.

"My message is peace through sports. There was a lot of senseless violence going on, and I wanted to change the culture."

Hargrave's older sister, Tanisha, watched his relationship with basketball evolve over time.

"He found his passion in basketball, channeling it through other things," Tanisha said. "Even though he's not playing basketball per se, he's still living through basketball and making his dreams come true. He found his passion."

"Ballin' 4 Peace" began with a celebrity charity basketball game and has grown year by year. So much so that they had a bowling event on Nov. 7 to raise money for Puerto Rico's hurricane relief effort and other causes.

"I owe it all to my mother," Hargrave said, referring to his success. "She embedded into me that I can do anything, and that's why I feel like I can do anything. I have 24 hours in a day, and I try to use it all.

"You don't have to make it to the NBA to have an impact on people's lives."

DAYLA COOK - The State Hornet

Sacramento State communication studies and film professor Michele Foss-Snowden poses with her Star Trek figure of Spock in her office. 'Trekkies' are one of many fandoms at Sac State.

Let your fandom flag fly

'POTTERHEADS' AND 'TREKKIES' ESTABLISH THEIR FANDOMS ON CAMPUS

Thomas Frey
@ThomasFreyRP

As popular shows gain big followings of college students, fans can be spotted celebrating their fan culture loud and proud at Sacramento State.

Students roam the quad representing their fandom through themed T-shirts, backpacks and other accessories. Heated conversations about the recent "Game of Thrones" episode or the new season of "Stranger Things" can be heard by passersby. Some students have even established clubs for their fandom, including the "Super Smash Bros." Club, the Anime and Manga Society and the Quidditch Club. It seems like it's not hard to find someone on campus who is a fan of a particular franchise.

Communication studies and film professor Michele Foss-Snowden is one of the many campus community members who are devoted to fandoms. She has regularly gone to conventions like Comic-Con for over a decade and even wrote her master's thesis on "Star Trek," one of her favorite TV shows. She also keeps collectibles from her fandoms, including"Star Trek" Pez dispensers, Pop! Vinyl figures of all the "Stranger Things" characters

KHANLIN RODGERS AND MATTHEW DYER - The State Hornet

Left, the Anime and Manga Society displays members' collection of anime-related materials during one of its weekly meetings. The group strives to represent multiple subjects and genres within the medium. Right, members of the Quidditch Club on campus gather often to play the sport that was once fictional and is now played on many college campuses.

and various posters.

Foss-Snowden describes a fandom as a community that appreciates and celebrates a particular culture, which can be anything from TV shows or movies to video games. Some of these groups have large followings and have made a name for themselves. Fans of the "Star Trek" fandom, like Foss-Snowden, are called "Trekkies."

"Star Trek" is more than just a TV show for Foss-Snowden, as it helped her understand her biracial identity. When she was 8 years old, her classmates asked her if she was adopted because she didn't look like her father. She later confided in her mother who used "Star Trek," as an analogy to help her understand her situation. Her mother explained why Spock, her favorite character from the show, was also treated different because he had a human mother and a Vulcan father.

"I was like, 'Well, (Spock) is the only Vulcan, and everybody else around him is human, so they only see what's different about him, they don't see what's the same,' " Foss-Snowden said. "I understood from her using that example (that no matter) what my actual combination of race or ethnicity might be on the inside, I'm gonna be perceived by people on what I look on the outside."

> "(Being a part of this fandom) brought out my ability to associate with others. ... I was very introverted. This helped me find out who I am."
>
> **- Caitlin Morris**
> *Sac State student*

Another fandom with a large following is "Harry Potter," whose members are called "Potterheads." Justice Brewer, a junior psychology major, become a die-hard "Harry Potter" fan in high school when she started reading the book series. She joined the Quidditch Club upon arriving to Sac State, where she is now captain of the Quidditch team. She can be seen on campus sporting "Harry Potter" themed T-shirts and has also gone to conventions dressed as her favorite characters from the series.

Like any Potterhead, Brewer knows what Hogwarts house she belongs to. Once a student in the series attends Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, they are sorted into one of four houses: Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw or Hufflepuff. Each house is known for its different traits and values. Most Potterheads are sorted by taking a quiz on Pottermore, a popular website for fans to learn more about the series.

Brewer was sorted into Slytherin, a house characterized by its proud, ambitious and cunning leaders. Brewer said she doesn't like how Slytherin is portrayed in the movies because they are looked upon as bad people because of dark wizards like the Malfoys and Lord Voldemort who all happen to be Slytherins. According to Brewer, only a small percentage of characters in Slytherin are actually bad.

"(What) I've taken away (from 'Harry Potter' is) that there is always more to people then what meets the eye," Brewer said. "There is so much more to a person then what you see. We see Severus Snape as this cold man who teaches potions, but in reality, he is a man who lost the love of his life and was bullied. He actually has a care in the world. Bad people aren't always bad."

The anime fandom has also gained quite a large following here in the states. Even though its origins are in Japan, anime has become popular and has even influenced Western pop culture. Live-action anime adaptations like Netflix's "Death Note" and conventions like Anime Expo and the more local SacAnime are proof of anime's influence on western markets.

Kinesiology major Clemente Oropeza is a member of the anime fandom and is also part of the Anime and Manga Society at Sac State. He looks to powered-up characters from the "Dragon Ball" series as inspiration for his training regimen.

"I relate a lot to Vegeta," Oropeza said. "I'm always training and lifting and trying to improve myself, and Vegeta is a big inspiration for that."

Vegeta is a character known for his preference to take on stronger opponents and engage in intense, even life-threatening, training regimens, to which he subjects himself, his son and his rival, Goku.

"Dragon Ball" is a "shonen" anime; a genre that typically focuses on action, adventure and is aimed at a young male audience. Some themes seen in shonen anime include self-improvement, discipline and perseverance. Essentially, shonen anime are similar to Western comics like "Spider-Man" and "Batman," but they tend to emphasize hard work.

Caitlin Morris, a government major, started watching anime when she was just 9 years old. Her favorite genre is fantasy anime like "The Ancient Magus' Bride." The story tells the life of Chise Hatori, a young girl who is auctioned off to a mage named Elias Ainsworth. He takes her in as an apprentice and intends to make her his future bride. Morris said that she is drawn to the show because she is a romantic at heart.

Morris participates in cosplay, an activity in which a person dresses up as a character from their fandom. Like many cosplayers, Morris crafts a majority of her outfits and props by hand. For Morris, participating and watching anime helped her break out of her shell, and she became more social. Morris said that pretending to be a character and talking to people about her fandom has helped her open up more in life.

"(Being a part of this fandom) brought out my ability to associate with others," Morris said. "I was very introverted. This helped me find out who I am."

Additional reporting by Khanlin Rodgers

Sacramento State celebrates the

Theatre and Dance closes out its show season by ringing in the holidays with 'Annie'

Gabriela Mascoll
@Gaby_Mascoll

SHARLENE PHOU - The State Hornet

Sacramento State Department of Theatre performs its production of "Annie" on Monday, Nov. 27 at the University Theatre. The production was picked to the holiday season over traditional Christmas performances.

As a way of welcoming the holiday spirit, Sacramento State's Department of Theatre and Dance will close out its season with the live show "Annie," directed by Ed Brazo.

The Tony award-winning musical tells the story of an 11-year-old orphan, Annie, who spends her days cleaning and sewing dresses as part of the sweatshop labor ordered by the head of the orphanage, Miss Hannigan. Fed up with the "Hard Knock Life," Annie decides to run away to search for her birth parents.

Annie is later caught by a police officer, and upon arriving back to the orphanage, is invited to spend Christmas in a mansion with billionaire tycoon Oliver Warbucks. Warbucks despises the idea of having a child living with him, but he eventually finds a soft spot for Annie and offers to help her find her parents.

"We thought 'Annie' would be a great show because it has a Christmas theme to it," Brazo said. "It could work at any other time, but Sacramento is ready for something different. We have 'The Nutcracker,' we have 'A Christmas Carol' and all those other Christmas shows (coming to town). So, I feel like this is going to draw a new crowd."

Brazo wanted to accurately depict the characters and decided to collaborate with the Sacramento Theater Company (STC) to give its young students an opportunity to get involved in an outside production. Two groups of seven child actors will sing, dance and act in the Sac State production.

Emily Clark, a senior who will be playing Miss Hannigan, auditioned for the role believing she would be a perfect fit for it. Although Clark said she is known to have a nice personality, she likes demonstrating her acting skills by playing the role of the villains in different productions. Clark said she intends to portray Miss Hannigan in an over-the-top way by exaggerating her drinking habits, speaking very loudly and breaking the fourth wall.

"Look for lots of laughs from my character," Clark said. "I am definitely the comic relief, and I make a fool out of myself on stage, and it's fabulous."

To further celebrate the holiday theme, Christmas decorations will be set up in the lobby to put audience members into the spirit of the show. There will also be a backdrop on stage from a previous show called "A Broadway Christmas" aligned with small, colorful gift boxes and a larger box in the middle that reads "For Annie."

Alexander Escorcia, a junior who will be playing Oliver Warbucks, questioned the idea of producing "Annie" in the winter because the department normally hosts musicals during the spring semester. Now that everything is coming together, Escorcia said that having "Annie" in the fall was a great fit for the holidays.

"There are certain things that we are trying to incorporate with the Christmas theme," Escorcia said. "We are trying to put a Christmas tree in the lobby, so if we did this in the spring, it would have been weird."

All the dances featured in show were choreographed by Brazo, who was inspired by the the original "Annie" production he saw on Broadway in 1977. Brazo said he rented the original scripts and scores to get his version as close to that performance as possible.

"I think (for) most of the families that are going to be bringing children, ('Annie') will be a nice way of having a new bond with their child," Brazo said. "It's a feel-good show, you can't help but want to run on the stage and give a hug to Mr. Warbucks and Annie."

See it:

"Annie" runs from Nov. 29 to Dec. 10 in the University Theatre. Tickets range from $12-$20 and are available at the Hornet Ticket Office.

holidays with music and dance

Director of Choral Activities to put on final Christmas concert before retiring

Gabriel Ionica
@H3nleYCSGO

Thirty-three years ago, Director of Choral Activities Don Kendrick was inspired by the Christmas concerts he held in the cathedrals of Canada and decided to bring that holiday tradition to Sacramento State.

"Procession of Carols," brings together the men's choir, women's choir and the University choir every December for two performances. Kendrick said the administration was not very fond of the idea at first, having never done anything like it before. School officials later changed their minds after the first concert turned out to be a hit and seated a sold-out audience.

"Every year, on the same weekend, in the same church, at the same time, we promise to bring the first celebrations of Christmas on our campus," Kendrick said.

Paul Towber, a senior music major, leads the bass section in the men's choir. Towber has been performing in the concert for three years and said that the Christmas season helps to draw in more people than usual.

"Choral music is a very niche market and something that not many people who don't listen to classical music will come and enjoy," Towber said. "Christmas, however, is a different story because then people are expecting to hear choral music more often."

This year will be Kendrick's last Christmas concert before he retires in June. As the day of the event approaches, Kendrick said that he feels very nostalgic and that he will miss being a part of the tradition, alongside his students.

"I have to move on, but I'll miss the magic that this evening brings," Kendrick said. "I may be retiring from Sacramento State, but I'm not retiring from my church job and my choral society."

During his time at Sac State, Kendrick created the graduate program in choral conducting and formed the Sacramento Children's Choir. He has taken his students to a number of places in Canada, including Vancouver and Montreal, as well as various parts of Europe, over the years for concerts. After he retires in June, Kendrick will continue his musical journey by continuing his roles as the conductor of the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra and the music director at Sacred Heart Church.

"It's been a joyous journey working with so many wonderful students and preparing for concerts, recordings and international tours," Kendrick said.

Towber said Kendrick gave him a lot of opportunities to expand his musical talents by employing him to write and edit music for his concerts. Towber said that this upcoming Christmas concert carries a lot of weight, as it will be Kendrick's last, and everyone on the choir wants make him proud one last time.

Another of Kendrick's students, senior social work and music double-major Violetta Terzi, will perform in the concert for her second time. Terzi said that she looks forward to singing the music that Kendrick handpicked for the concert, as well as the warm response of the audience.

As for the future of the Christmas concert, Kendrick said the University has begun a nationwide search for someone to take over his title.

"I love it that our community has something that they look forward to every year," Terzi said. "It's a bittersweet moment. I believe that it will be impossible to replace Dr. Kendrick."

Photo courtesy of Don Kendrick

Sacramento State's female singers of the Choral Activities. The Director of Choral Activities Don Kendrick will be retiring from Sac State at the end of this semester.

Hear it:

"Procession of Carols" will be held at the Sacred Heart Church on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. and on Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. Tickets range from $7-$15 and can be purchased at the Hornet Ticket Office.

Graduation Tickets
csus.edu/commencement/tickets

Exchange tickets:
Sacramento State Alumni
#SacStateGrad

SACSTATE

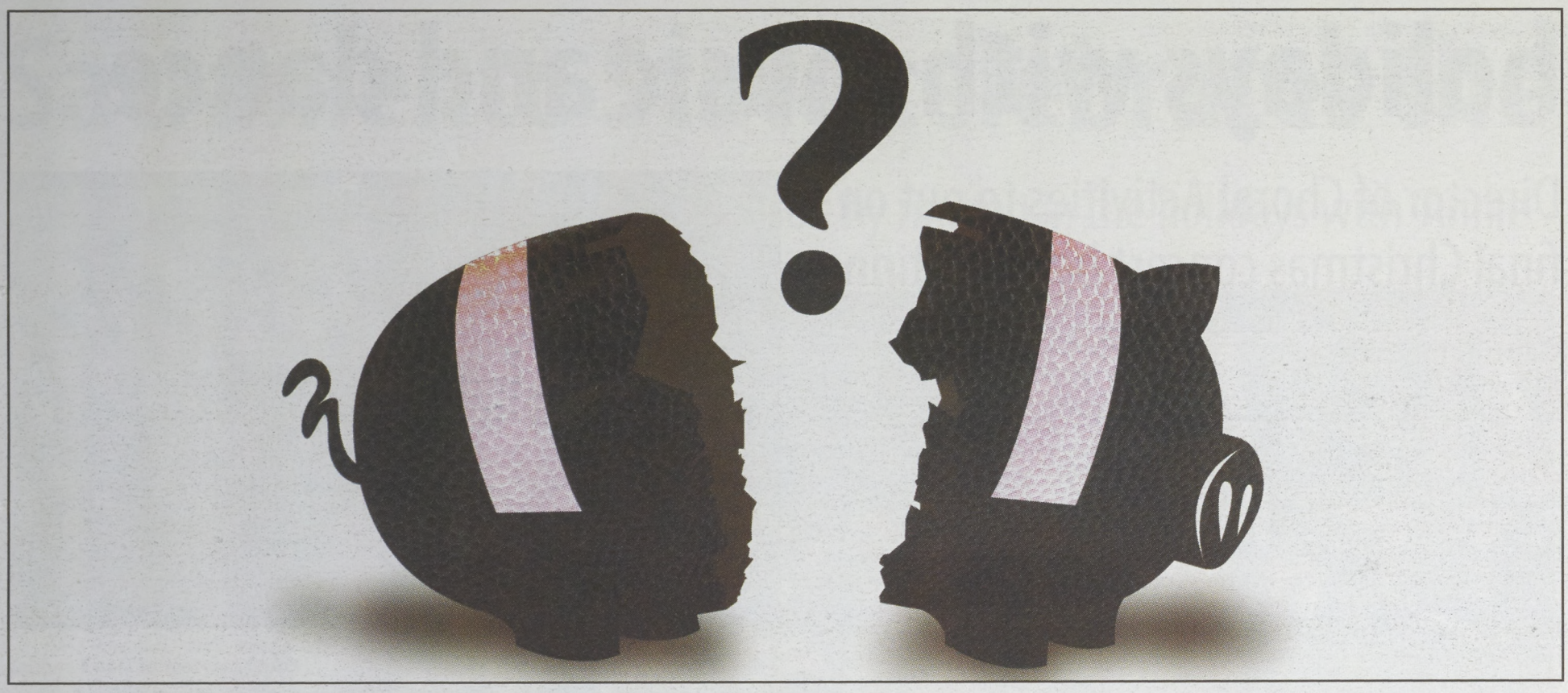


Illustration by Tyler McElmurry

Sacramento State's athletics programs consistently cost the University and its students excessive amounts of money; in 2016, the football team was $1,560,353 in debt.

NOT EVEN A QUARTER BACK

Students are stuck footing the bill on sports programs constantly in the red

Athletics at Sacramento State is not something that drives most students to attend, so why does the University feel like it needs to spend millions of dollars on something those students don't get a fair return on?

As of 2016, Sac State students contributed $7,911,933 to the Athletic Department, and the school paid an additional $8,397,723, but the department still managed to finish the year $606,694 in debt.

If you're familiar with other university-level sports programs and the way they operate their budget, this number may not seem so bad. But for a university whose main identity is not athletics, and that is constantly saying it has money troubles, there is no justifying this outcome.

The department had an overall revenue of $26,741,348 in 2016, meaning that 60 percent of that revenue is made up of student fees and direct institutional support.

Sacramento State has been telling students that it's hurting for money and needs to fundraise, raise tuition and cancel fall commencement, among other things, in order to keep from really having to break its piggy bank open.

Yet, it continue to pour millions of dollars into an athletic program that is only just recently starting to show promise but still ends up in debt hundreds of thousands of dollars.

It's not that just one team is bringing down the rest in terms of lack of revenue. Every team is in debt at the end of their seasons, and the majority of what is keeping the department from completely tanking is the nearly $8 million dollars that the student body is forced to pay.

Every student's tuition has an additional $141 fee that goes toward athletics each semester, which is why students can get into all home athletic games for "free," but the average attendance for home football games at Hornet Stadium during the 2017 season was 8,315 people, with the highest attendance at the Causeway Classic with 11,828 people.

Hornet Stadium can seat 21,195 people with an average general admission ticket price for each game at around $20, meaning that, based on the average attendance from this season, all of those empty seats are costing the department $257,597.

As of 2016, the total ticket revenue from all 11 teams that require paid ticket entry was only $251,795.

This not only shows that a big time sport like football, which in 2016 was in debt $1,560,353, draws hardly any interest from the student body, but that just having games puts the program and the department even more in debt.

Considering that Sac State just canceled winter commencement because it couldn't afford the $150,000-plus price tag to hold it at the Golden 1 Center, it seems ridiculous that it would continue funding a team that is $1.5 million in debt and that loses over a quarter-million dollars every time it hosts a game.

Sac State needs to decide where its true interests lie.

If you want to spend $91 million on your science department, and hopefully on some other departments in the future to better the learning experience for your students, go for it.

If you want to spend $8 million dollars on your athletic program that is in debt and have the student body fork up nearly another $8 million to keep it from completely collapsing, OK.

But you can not have both, Sac State. Your student's main intent is to come here and learn in order to have a better future — not to subsidize a sports program that cannot balance its budget.

Punching Nazis will only create more

Joseph Daniels
@joseph64daniels

Not too long ago, a protester punched self-proclaimed alt-right leader Richard Spencer in the face before he returned to his cave — or wherever modern day trolls reside — never again to spew his racist ideology.

Oh, wait! Spencer never actually left the spotlight. Maybe violence against members of the alt-right is not the best way to go about resisting the white supremacy movement that has been picking up steam since President Donald Trump took office.

Supporters of violent protests seem to often argue that those who don't agree with their methods are Nazi sympathizers. The problem with this line of thinking is that it enforces the "us versus them" doctrine that white supremacist groups use to bring more followers into the fold.

The Associated Press reported 26 European nations banned Spencer from entering. Imagine how potentially influential an individual must be for that many countries to decide that it was too dangerous for them to be allowed in.

While barring people with whom we disagree from speaking might feel like a good idea, it does not address why people are flocking to public figures such as Spencer in the first place. Spencer's rhetoric is not special by any means, and excluding him will only force his followers to look elsewhere to continue spreading his views.

In order to combat this hateful ideology, we need to address the social and political forces that drive people to these groups.

Sociologist Arlie Hochschild wrote in her book, "Strangers in Their Own Land," that Americans who fall into the far-right feel like their country has left them behind.

Punching them in the face does not address these concerns. All this does is encourage people to entrench themselves further into these fringe groups.

Linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky said "when confrontation shifts to the arena of violence, it's the toughest and most brutal who win."

We know from past experience which side's people are the toughest and most brutal. They are the ones who run counter-protesters over and make thoughtless jokes that people are glad when one of them is killed.

These actions, among others, are disgusting and should not be imitated. If the violent ideologies of the alt-right prevail, they will have won this battle of what has the potential to become a larger-scale culture war. If we, as a society, say it is appropriate to follow this mindset when attempting to affect change in our society, we cannot claim to be any better than them.

(Photo by Evan Nesterak/ CC By)

White nationalists clashed with police officers during the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 13. The first step to resist this movement is to learn the sociological forces that lead people to similar extreme ideologies.

"Supporters of violent protests seem to often argue that those who don't agree with their methods are Nazi sympathizers. The problem with this line of thinking is that it enforces the 'us versus them' doctrine that white supremacist groups use to bring more followers into the fold."

It is not only important to peacefully confront the Spencers of the world to let them know their rhetoric is vile, but it is also important to be involved with the political process so that he or his ilk do not hold any real power.

The United States has a long history believing violence, or the threat of violence, is the solution to almost every problem. How else could you explain the number of wars this country fought in and the number of U.S. military bases around the world?

If we want to change the narrative of the United States existing as an imperialistic empire, we need to come up with more effective methods for solving conflict, especially if we want to see a society in which violence is no longer the default option.

HEY SAC STATE!

Now that you've heard our opinion, let us know what you think! Send letters to the editor to editor@statehornet.com or submit them in-person at Del Norte Hall, room 1006. Letters must be signed and may be edited for length and clarity. Use the hashtag #SacStateSays to weigh in on social media!

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